

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 USUN N 01162 300218Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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P 300147Z MAR 78  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0363  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY  
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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY  
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AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T USUN NEW YORK 01162

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, MARR, PBOR, UNSC, XF, LE, IS, SY  
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: CONVERSATION WITH TUENI MARCH 29

REF: STATE 79930

1. LEONARD COVERED KEY POINTS IN REFTEL WITH AMB TUENI  
DURING AFTERNOON ON MARCH 29. SPECIAL EMPHASIS PLACED  
ON PROMPT INJECTION OF LEBANESE MILITARY AND CIVIL  
AUTHORITY INTO SOUTH LEBANON, RETURN OF DISPLACED PERSONS,

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AND US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LEBANESE ARMY. IN  
RESPONDING TO POINT ON LEBANESE AUTHORITY IN THE SOUTH,  
TUENI SAID HE HAD SPOKEN WITH GEN. KHOURY AND WAS CONTIN-  
UING TO PROD FOR SWIFT ACTION BY THE LAF. LEBANESE  
MILITARY ATTACHE FROM THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE  
RETURNING TO BEIRUT IN TWO DAYS AND WOULD CARRY A  
PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM TUENI ON IMPORTANCE OF EARLY INTRO-

DUCTION OF LEBANESE OFFICIALS IN THE SOUTH. TUENI NOTED THAT HE GATHERED THAT SMALL UNITS OF LEBANESE ARMY LIAISON PERSONNEL WERE ALREADY SCATTERED IN SEVERAL ZONES IN THE SOUTH.

2. REFERRING TO A CONVERSATION EARLIER IN THE DAY WITH FM BOUTROS, TUENI REMARKED THAT GREATER NUMBERS OF LEBANESE ARMY PERSONNEL SHOULD BE ON LOCATION BELOW THE LITANI WITHIN THE NEXT 48 HOURS. BOUTROS CONFIRMED THAT WHILE THE AREA NORTH OF THE LITANI WAS AND WOULD REMAIN A PROBLEM, THE REGION BELOW THE RIVER WOULD RECEIVE FIRST PRIORITY.

3. TURNING TO DISPLACED PERSONS, TUENI ESTIMATED THE RETURN TO THE SOUTH WAS LIMITED AT PRESENT AND WAS OCCURRING UNEQUALLY DEPENDING ON THE CONDITION OF PARTICULAR VILLAGES AND AFFILIATIONS OF THOSE IN CONTROL. TUENI PROJECTED A SHIFT IN RELIGIOUS BALANCE IN SOUTH LEBANON WITH FEWER CHRISTIANS RETURNING THAN SHIA MUSLIMS. THE LATTER HAD MORE RESTRICTED OPTIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT ELSEWHERE. LEONARD DESCRIBED CATEGORIES OF DISPLACED PERSONS, WHICH TUENI JOTTED DOWN, AGREEING WHOLEHEARTEDLY THAT CREATION OF ANOTHER PERMANENT REFUGEE POPULATION SHOULD BE AVOIDED. TURNING TO PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS IN SOUTH LEBANON, TUENI OFFERED THAT AN EVEN GREATER DANGER THAN CONCEALED ARMAMENTS IN THE CAMPS WILL BE THE SECRET

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INDIVIDUAL HIDEAWAYS OF SMALL GUERRILLA BANDS. HE ADDED THAT PALESTINIAN CIRCLES WERE REASSESSING EVEN BEFORE THE ISRAELI INVASION THEIR STATUS AND STRATEGY IN SOUTH LEBANON. TUENI OPINED THAT ARAFAT HAS CHOSEN NOT TO ENGAGE IN MAJOR MILITARY STRIKES AND MAY EVEN HAVE GEORGE HABASH'S ACQUIESCENCE IN THIS. AT THE MOMENT THE PALESTINIANS ARE STILL REACTING WITH FEAR FROM THE IDF ATTACK, BUT THIS WILL CHANGE TO ANGER AND COULD LEAD TO UNCONTROLLED, SPONTANEOUS PALESTINIAN COMMANDO ACTIONS.

4. ACCORDING TO TUENI, DISPLACED PERSONS CROWDED INTO WEST BEIRUT WERE GENERATING A TYPE OF "INTELLECTUAL TERRORISM" WHICH WAS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DETERIORATION OF SECURITY THROUGHOUT THE CITY. ANOTHER REPORT HE RECEIVED FROM BEIRUT WAS A DISCOURAGING REEVALUATION UPWARD OF THE NUMBERS OF IRAQIS (MAINLY YOUNG PALESTINIANS FROM IRAQ) ENTERING LEBANON. WHILE GOL OFFICIALS MAY NOT HAVE RELIABLE INFORMATION AND MAY BE TENDING TO EXAGGERATE THE TOTALS, HE BELIEVED EARLIER CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES WERE NO LONGER VALID. TUENI COULD NOT BE MORE PRECISE BUT INDICATED MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION WOULD PROBABLY BE AVAILABLE TO AMB. PARKER.

5. TUENI TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF LEONARD'S REMARKS ON US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ONLY REITERATED THAT WHATEVER US MILITARY PRESENCE CAN BE PROVIDED, A "FEW TECHNICIANS TO INTRODUCE NEW EQUIPMENT" WILL HAVE A TREMENDOUSLY SALUTARY IMPACT. WE STRESSED THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE US MILITARY TRAINING AS SUCH IN LEBANON. LEONARD

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, MARR, PBOR, XF, LE, IS, SY, UNSC, (LEONARD), (TUENI)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014